

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 have been examined, with claim 1 being independent. By the amendment presented above, claims 1-7 have been canceled. A new independent claim 8 has been presented, corresponding to original claim 3. New dependent claims 9-12 have also been presented. Claims 9-12 correspond to claims 4-7, respectively.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 (2d ¶) as indefinite, pointing out a typographical error in the transcription thereof during the presentation of the preliminary amendment herein. By the amendment presented above, claim 6 has been canceled. New claim 11 corresponds to claim 6 without the referenced error. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,459,375 (Nilssen); and claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nilssen in view of United States Patent No. 5,986,898 (Meitzner, *et al*). In light of the amendment presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the references applied by the Examiner.

The invention is directed to a rectifier circuit comprising a bridge arrangement of four diodes, establishing four poles between different adjacent pairs of the four diodes. One adjacent pair of the diodes are fast diodes. The circuit further comprises a pair of capacitors connected in series across the diode bridge, and joined at a junction point. The junction point between the two capacitors is connected to the pole that lies between the two diodes in the bridge arrangement which are *not* fast diodes (e.g. diodes D2, D3 in the bridge of Fig. 3a, or diodes D1, D4 in the bridge of Fig. 3b). See, for example, page 3, lines 37-39 of the present specification. This arrangement is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art applied by the Examiner.

Fig. 13A of Nilssen (relied on by the Examiner) shows a bridge arrangement of four diodes, in which two of the diodes, the diodes located on either side of the output pole, are fast diodes. See col. 30, lines 50-59. However, Nilssen does not disclose a pair of capacitors having a junction point therebetween, with the junction point connected to the pole of the bridge that lies between the two diodes which are *not* fast diodes.

Meitzner, *et al.*, show a diode bridge in which a pair of capacitors C11, C12 are connected in series across the bridge. The capacitors have a junction point therebetween, with the junction point being connected to the output pole of the bridge. Meitzner, *et al.* do not teach that any of the diodes are fast diodes. In fact, tellingly, although Meitzner, *et al.* depict capacitors C11, C12 in Fig. 1, nothing is said about either one in the specification, nor is anything at all said about the diodes constituting the bridge.

Thus, Nilssen states vaguely and briefly that at least two of the four diodes in the diode bridge can be fast diodes. He says nothing about how the fast diodes are selected relative to their position in the bridge or their connection relative to capacitor HFFC'. Meitzner, *et al.* say nothing about the four diodes in the diode bridge, nor about capacitors C11 and C12. Thus, neither of these references contains the slightest bit of information that would lead a person with ordinary skill in the art to combine them at all, let alone in a specific manner such as to constitute the present claimed invention. Moreover, no motivation to form such a combination is apparent from either reference.

The Examiner contends that

"Such configurations would have been obvious as a means to further increase efficiency especially wherein two high speed diodes were being utilized thereby deleting a diode drop."

The Examiner's stated, above-quoted reasoning leads to the following questions:

- (1) Where in the prior art does the Examiner find support for the implied contention that a person with ordinary skill in the art would know that the claimed invention would "increase efficiency"?
- (2) Where in the prior art does the Examiner find support for the implied contention that a person with ordinary skill in the art would know to pick which of the four bridge diodes must be the fast ones relative to (i) their position in the bridge and/or (ii) their connection to the junction between the capacitors?
- (3) Where in the prior art does the Examiner find support for the implied contention that a person with ordinary skill in the art would know that use of two high speed diodes could lead to "deleting a diode drop"?

The Examiner leaps from no information, or at least scanty information, in the applied references to a combination yielding the proposed claimed invention. However, the only possible support therefore is the impermissible reliance on the presently claimed invention. Without the teachings of the present invention, no such leap would or could have been made by anyone with ordinary skill in the art.

Thus, the invention recited in claim 8 is neither taught nor suggested by the references applied by the examiner, either alone or in combination. Claims 9-12 depend from claim 8 and, thus, each is allowable therewith. Withdrawal of the pending rejections, insofar as they may apply to claims 8-12, and prompt allowance of the present application are, thus, respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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